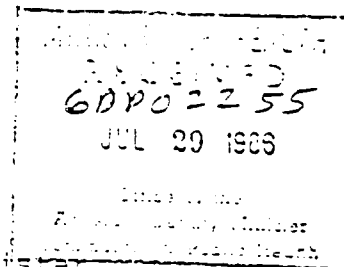


Ministry of Health
Ministère de la Santé

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July 23, 1986



MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. D. W. Corder
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Community and Public Health

FROM: C. A. Bigenwald
Executive Director

RE: Environmental Hypersensitivity

The Advisory Panel on Environmental Hypersensitivity has carried out a well thought out review of the "Thomson" Report. The Panel's key recommendation is to exercise caution pending scientific definition of environmental sensitivity and scientific research findings on the subject. It recommends against establishing a special environmental unit or changing the OHIP fee structure.

On the other hand, the Panel recognizes need for patients to be sent to specialized facilities in the United States and to provide socio-economic support for persons disabled by environmental hypersensitivity. Regarding the former, it is not clear that a lay panel alone should be responsible for the assessment process. While some scientists or physicians may be reluctant to participate, assessment without professional input is questionable. Further, physicians will want to have the freedom to refer as they feel fit unencumbered by a panel. Regarding the latter, formally recognizing the need for special socio-economic support for these patients implicitly recognizes in government policy the validity of these "diseases". But as noted in the report, this reflects the difference in the Canadian socio-political system of supporting people who "find themselves in difficulty through no fault of their own."

The Panel's advice
comments are reasonable.

Its other

5.13

Charlie